

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 283185  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 USSS-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY M/CT:HISHAM/JJOHNSON

APPROVED BY M - BHREAD

EUR - MR. VINE

S/PRS - MR. RESTON

S/S - RPERITO

-----116694 262033Z /42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 283185

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC

SUBJECT:POSSIBLE THREAT AGAINST TWA AT FIUMICINO AIRPORT

REF: STATE 283135

1. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES, DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE HAS  
ALREADY CONFIRMED DISPATCH OF U.S. SNIFFER DOGS AND HANDLERS  
TO ROME, ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

Q: WE HAVE A REPORT THAT EXPLOSIVE SNIFFING DOGS, ACCOMPAN-  
IED BY TWO PROFESSIONAL HANDLERS FROM NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,  
HAVE JUST BEEN SENT TO ROME AIRPORT. IS THERE ANY UNUSUAL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 283185

SECURITY THREAT AT ROME AIRPORT?

A: EXPLOSIVE SNIFFING DOGS HAVE PROVED VALUABLE IN SUPPLE-  
MENTING OTHER METHODS TO DETECT EXPLOSIVES. IN THIS CASE,  
THE DOGS HAVE BEEN SENT TO ROME, AT THE REQUEST OF THE  
ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAA TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

2. PRESS GUIDANCE MENTIONED IN REFTEL FOLLOWS. ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE CAUTIONED THAT MATERIAL IS TO BE USED ON CONTINGENCY/IF ASKED BASIS ONLY. IF PRESS IN ROME ALSO INQUIRES ABOUT UNUSUAL ACTIVITY SURROUNDING US AIR CARRIER FLIGHTS OUT OF ROME OR ABOUT RECENT U.S. EMPLOYEE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS:

Q: WE HAVE NOTED THE MORE STRINGENT SCREENING MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY US AIR CARRIERS OPERATING THROUGH ROME. WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR THIS?

A: THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR JUDGING THE SECURITY MEASURES APPROPRIATE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND FOR COORDINATION WITH THE CARRIERS. I SUGGEST YOU DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

Q: IS THE REPORT CORRECT THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IMPOSED A RESTRICTION ON US EMPLOYEE TRAVEL ON US AIR CARRIERS DEPARTING ROME?

A: I AM UNABLE TO COMMENT ON YOUR QUESTION.

3. ADDRESSEE POSTS, OF COURSE, ARE AWARE THAT LATTER  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 283185

QUESTION IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AND MAY PROMPT A FOLLOW-ON QUERY REGARDING THE SPECIFIC THREAT THAT TRIGGERED THE TEMPORARY TRAVEL BAN. AS WITH THE PREVIOUS QUESTION, POSTS SHOULD MAKE NO COMMENT REGARDING THE THREAT. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Drafter:** HISHAM/JJOHNSON  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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